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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/519,317	10/11/2005	Michel Aeschbacher	003D.0036.U1(US)	9103
29683	7590	04/05/2006	EXAMINER	
HARRINGTON & SMITH, LLP 4 RESEARCH DRIVE SHELTON, CT 06484-6212				NASRI, JAVAID H
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2839	

DATE MAILED: 04/05/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/519,317	AESCHBACHER, MICHEL	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Javaid Nasri	2839	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**.                    2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-6 and 8-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 7 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 11 October 2005 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:
  1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____  |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>10/11/05 (12/23/04)</u> | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
|  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                    |

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Drawings***

1. Drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in this application because:

- a) Drawing should be submitted separately, not part of the PCT.

Applicant is advised to employ the services of a competent patent draftsperson outside the Office, as the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office no longer prepares new drawings. The corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The requirement for corrected drawings will not be held in abeyance.

2. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the

- a) The limitations of claim 16 are not shown clearly in the figures.

must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an

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application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

*Abstract*

3. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because:

- a) Remove "FIGURE 1" from the end of the abstract.

Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

*Claim Objections*

4. Claims 1-17 are objected to because of the following informalities:

- a) In claim 1, line 4, "the level" lacks antecedent base.
- b) In claim 2, line 3, "the contact zone" lacks antecedent base.
- c) In claim 3, line 2, change "opening" to -- said opening --.
- d) In claim 3, line 3, "the gaps" lacks antecedent base.
- e) In claim 5, an opening 46 is already in claim 1.
- f) In claim 6, change "projections" to -- said projections --.
- g) In claim 17, line 2, what does "it" referring to?

**Note: These are few examples only. Applicant is required to check all the claims and correct them accordingly.**

*Specification*

5. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

- a) Remove Trans. Note from bottom of page 11.

Appropriate correction is required.

*Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

7. Claims 1, 8, 10-15 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Roberts (6,074,220, cited in IDS).

Roberts discloses, **for claim 1**, a support (7), means for positioning flex circuit (4) relative to said support (7) and conformation means (63) for flex circuit (4), characterized in that the support has a bottom at the level of which is created an opening (see figure 9a), flex circuit being immobilized between conformation means (63) and bottom, conformation means having at least one bent spring strip (63) comprising at least one bend (63) positioned between flex circuit (4) and a surface (30) so as to increase the elastic effect of said strip (63), **for claim 8**, means for positioning flex circuit relative to support comprises elements positioned upstream of contact zone of flex circuit, **for claim 10**, conformation means (63) retains and supports flex circuit against support and for this purpose has means for connection to support by ratcheting (see figure 1), **for claim 11**, means for positioning a support of another connection device to which it

can be connected, **for claim 12**, support comprises complementary shapes on either side of a roughly median plane assuring the relative positioning of two supports, the two identical supports being positioned head-to-foot, **for claim 13**, support comprises, on one side, a receptacle receiving flex circuit (see figure 9a) as well as conformation means, and, on the other side, a housing that can receive receptacle of a second support when two devices are connected head-to-foot, **for claim 14**, support is presented in the form of a U whose base (see figure 9a) supports flex circuit as well as conformation means and whose arms have complementary shapes that can assure the relative positioning between supports, **for claim 15**, the support comprises means for retaining in the connected position, **for claim 17**, a separate element assuring the positioning and holding in position of two connected supports.

8. Claims 1, 11, 12, 15 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hamlin (5,730,619, cited in IDS).

Hamlin discloses, **for claim 1**, a support (20), means for positioning flex circuit relative to said support (20) and conformation means (32) for flex circuit (11), characterized in that the support has a bottom at the level of which is created an opening (at 28), flex circuit being immobilized between conformation means and bottom, conformation means having at least one bent spring strip (38) comprising at least one bend (38) positioned between flex circuit (11) and a surface (10) so as to increase the elastic effect of said strip, **for claim 11**, means for positioning a support of another connection device to which it can be connected, **for claim 12**, support comprises complementary shapes on either side of a roughly median plane assuring the relative positioning of two supports, the two identical supports (depends which identical parts are considered) being positioned head-to-foot, **for claim 15**, the support comprises means for retaining in the

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connected position, **for claim 16**, the support comprises a projection (25, 27) and a corresponding housing or opening, said projection of a first support (20) being able to be immobilized by ratcheting in housing or opening of a second support (10, see figure 2).

9. Claims 1-6, 8-12 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Wilson (3,629,787).

Wilson discloses, **for claim 1**, a support (10), means for positioning flex circuit relative to said support and conformation means (11, 12) for flex circuit (20), characterized in that the support has a bottom at the level of which is created an opening (at 13, 14), flex circuit being immobilized between conformation means and bottom, conformation means having at least one bent spring strip (see figures 1 and 2) comprising at least one bend (see figure 2) positioned between flex circuit and a surface so as to increase the elastic effect of said strip (see figure 2), **for claim 2**, means for positioning flex circuit relative to support comprises projections (25, 27) downstream of the contact zone, in the plugging-in direction, which projections can be housed in corresponding openings (28) created in flex circuit, **for claim 3**, openings (28) created in flex circuit have an oblong (see figure 1) form and are arranged parallel to the flex circuit conductors (22), at the level of the gaps, so as to perfectly immobilize the flex circuit in the transverse direction and permit a slight translation in the longitudinal direction, **for claim 4**, projections (25, 27) are attached onto support (10), **for claim 5**, the support (10) comprises an opening (see figure 4) level with the contact zone, the edge of opening having an inclined plane downstream (at 42) and projections (25, 27) are attached on this plane (see figure 4), **for claim 6**, the projections (25, 27) are attached onto conformation means (see figure 2), **for claim 8**, means for positioning flex circuit relative to support comprises elements positioned upstream of contact

zone of flex circuit, **for claim 9**, the positioning means positioned upstream comprises a projection (25, 27) in one piece with support that can be housed in an opening (28) created in flex circuit, **for claim 10**, conformation means (63) retains and supports flex circuit against support and for this purpose has means for connection to support by ratcheting (see figure 7), **for claim 11**, means for positioning a support of another connection device to which it can be connected, **for claim 12**, support comprises complementary shapes on either side of a roughly median plane assuring the relative positioning of two supports, the two identical supports being positioned head-to-foot, **for claim 15**, the support comprises means for retaining in the connected position.

*Allowable Subject Matter*

10. Claim 7 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

**REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

11. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The reason for allowance of the claims is the inclusion of the limitation,

- a) For claim 7, none of the prior art teaches or suggest, alone or in combination the projections at the ends of the conformation means being housed in openings of the flex circuit, in combination with other limitations in the claim which is not found in the prior art reference of record.

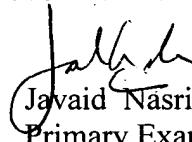
Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### Contact

12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Javaid Nasri whose telephone number is 571 272 2095. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tulsidas C. Patel can be reached on 571 272 2800 ext 39. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
Javaid Nasri  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2839

JN

Jhn  
March 29, 2006